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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [redacted]

//CHILE: SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MILITARY OFFICERS IN CHILE ARE EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT PRESIDENTPPINOCHET IS PLACING TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDGMENTS OF A SMALL GROUP OF EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE ADVISERS. THE TOTALITARIAN VIEWS OF THIS GROUP APPARENTLY HAVE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON DECISIONS MADE RECENTLY IN THE JUNTA'S NAME. [redacted] CIVILIAN ADVISER JAIME GUZMAN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PERSUADING THE PRESIDENT TO ADOPT POLICIES LIKE THE CANCELLATION OF A VISIT TO SANTIAGO OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY GROUP THAT SUBSEQUENTLY AROUSED STRONG CRITICISM OF THE REGIME AT HOME AND ABROAD. RESENTMENT OF THE POWER ARROGATED BY GUZMAN IS SHARED BY GENERAL LEIGHT,A KEY JUNTA MEMBER, WHO BLAMES GUZMAN FOR INFLUENCING PINOCHET TO CANCEL THE VISIT. [redacted] GUZMAN IS MANEUVERING TO EXERT TIGHTER CONTROL OVER THE NEWS MEDIA IN CHILE. GUZMAN IS SAID TO BE RIGIDLY OPPOSED TO A FREE PRESS AND EAGER TO CLAMP MORE RESTRICTIVE CONTROLS OVER IT. PINOCHET MAY YET NEED

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THE WARNINGS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE MORE REPRESSIVE MEASURES./[redacted]

//PINOCHET SEEMS TO BELIEVE HIS OWN FREQUENT ASSERTIONS 1.5C
THAT THE REGIME HAS STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT. THIS CONFIDENCE IS BASED ON OPINION POLLS AND ON CAREFULLY ARRANGED VISITS TO AREAS OUTSIDE SANTIAGO. HE ONLY GRUDGINGLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SERIOUSNESS OF CHILE'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT AND THE DISCONTENT CAUSED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S HEAVY-HANDED SECURITY ACTIONS./[redacted]

//FOR THE MOST PART, PINOCHET SEEMS TO LISTEN ONLY TO WHAT HE WANTS TO HEAR, AND HIS CLOSEST COLLABORATORS ARE PROBABLY PLAYING ON THIS TENDENCY./[redacted]

//THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT A PUBLIC GESTURE TOWARD RELAXING ITS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS LONG OVERDUE. [redacted] MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN PINOCHET DELIVERS AN ADDRESS ON SEPTEMBER 11, THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW./[redacted]

//ALLEVIATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE RESTRICTIONS AND A SHIFT OF JUDICIAL AUTHORITY FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN COURTS ARE DISTINCT POSSIBILITIES./[redacted]

//SO FAR, HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO OBSERVE THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS THE LE LETTER OF ITS OWN LAWS. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IT LOOKS THE OTHER WAY WHEN SECURITY FORCES IGNORE THE LAW. [redacted]

[redacted]

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